

In Memoriam

Chief William E. Hagele, a lifelong Rye resident and the Department's last Chief, passed away on January 31, 2005. Our current Patrol Boat #1 was christened "The Chief William E. Hagele" in his honor in 2001. We remember Chief Hagele as an outstanding Police Officer and Chief who provided many years of dedicated service to the Department; a war hero; and a beloved member of the community. May he rest in peace.



CHIEF WILLIAM E. HAGELE

Chief William E. Hagele was appointed to the City of Rye Police Department on October 7, 1948. He was promoted to Detective on January 1, 1956; to Sergeant on June 15, 1958; to Detective Sergeant on May 1, 1959; and to Lieutenant on October 1, 1960. He served as the Department's Chief from January 1, 1978 until his retirement on December 31, 1980. He was the last person to hold the rank of Chief in the Department; the top position was changed to Police Commissioner after his retirement.

Chief Hagele is a lifelong Rye resident. He served in five campaigns in Europe during World War II, receiving the Purple Heart after twice being wounded in action. He is remembered by all who served with him and under his command as a true police professional, whose dedication to duty and to the City of Rye was unquestionable.

(From the program for the dedication ceremony of the vessel "Chief William E. Hagele," July 18, 2001)